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CIA plot

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Castro missed death by teen-ager's poison

NEW YORK (AP) — The CIA equipped a teen-ager with poison capsules and sent her to Havana in 1960 to kill her ex-lover, Fidel Castro, the New York Daily News said Sunday.

The attempt failed when the capsules melted in the ice of cold cream where she had hidden them, the newspaper said.

The News said the poison was supplied by Frank Fiorini, later known as Frank Sturgis, one of the men arrested and convicted in the Watergate burglary. The newspaper said Sturgis confirmed the story told by Marie Lorenz, who now lives in New York.

According to the account, Miss Lorenz met Castro in 1959, soon after he seized power in Cuba, when he came aboard a German cruise liner captained by her German father. Her mother was an American, the News said.

Castro persuaded her to move into his suite in the Havana Hilton as his personal interpreter. The News said she soon realized she was a virtual prisoner. Fiorini, an officer of the

Cuban Revolutionary Army and simultaneously a CIA agent, contacted her and persuaded her to photograph Castro's secret papers, the account said.

After 11 months, the girl flew to New York for medical treatment and was questioned by the FBI.

The FBI said it had no immediate comment on the story.

According to the News, Fiorini and another CIA agent, Alex Rorke, persuaded Miss Lorenz to take part in several CIA-funded operations and then Rorke took her to the FBI office.

There, she said, she was asked about her attitude toward Castro. Rorke said "You could knock him off. It would save everybody a lot of trouble." I thought he

was joking, but they kept coming back to it and I realized they were serious.

"Alex said, 'Why don't you kill him?' I said 'I don't know how, with all those men around him, and I don't know if it's in me to kill him.'"

After several more meetings, she said, she agreed to go to Miami where she spent three weeks in a CIA "safe house" seeing no one but Fiorini and Rorke.

"They kept talking me into it," she said. When the News asked if she believes she was brainwashed, she replied, "I guess so."

When she finally agreed, Fiorini gave her the capsules of powder and she was told to sprinkle it in Castro's coffee, the News said.